March 17, 1925. 1,529,660

R. J. MAURER

RACK

Filed April 20, 1923

Fig. 1.

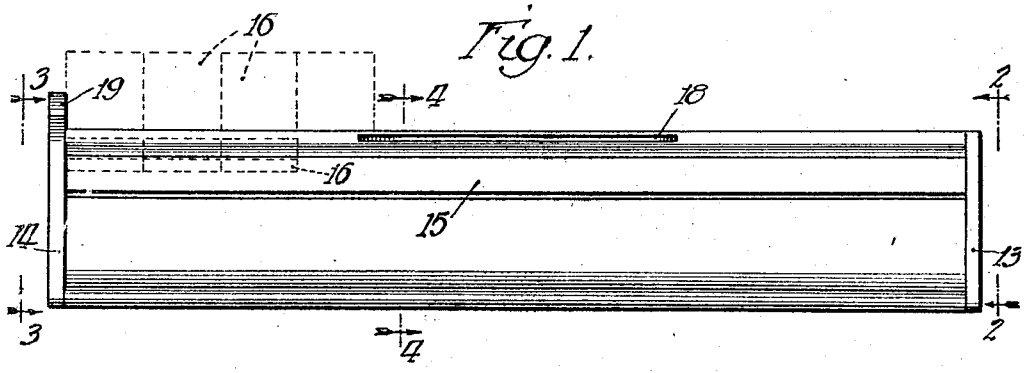


Fig. 2.

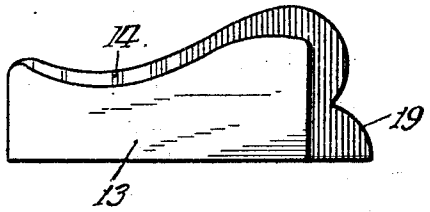


Fig. 3.

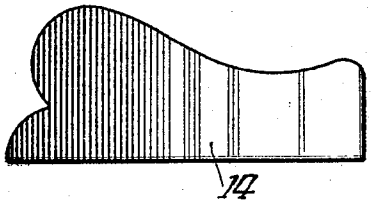


Fig. 4.

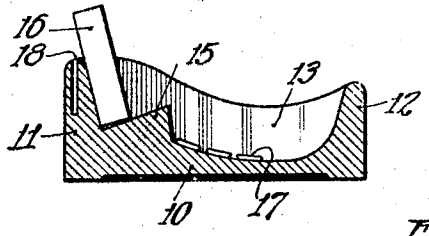


Fig. 5.

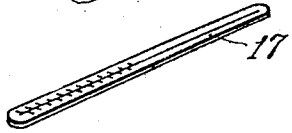
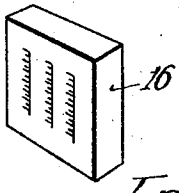


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUTH J. MAURER, OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN.

RACK.

Application filed April 20, 1923. Serial No. 633,485.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUTH J. MAURER, a citizen of the United States, residing at La Crosse, in the county of La Crosse and State of Wisconsin, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Racks, of which the following is a full, clear, concise, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

My invention relates to racks, and has for its object the provision of a device of this character which is of particular use to hold such articles as dominoes, rectangular tiles having characters thereon for playing games such as Mah jongg, or any similar devices, in front of an observer so that they may be held in a suitable position to expose their faces without danger of their falling over.

The rack is also provided with suitable means, preferably a trough, to hold markers, or any other indicia elements which might signify money or values. In the specification and the claims I will use the word "counters" to express such elements, which might also be actual money, and will use the word "tiles" to express elements of the general nature hereinbefore referred to.

I will explain one form which my invention may take more in detail by referring to the accompanying drawings, which show a device of this character that is of more particular use in connection with the game Mah jongg, in which—

Fig. 1 is a top or plan view of a rack constructed in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is an end view thereof looking in the direction of the arrow 2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an end view thereof looking in the direction of the arrows 3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view along line 4—4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a counter that may be employed; and

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a tile.

My improved rack is preferably a unitary structure having a bottom wall 10, rear wall 11, front wall 12 and end walls 13 and 14. Forwardly of the rear wall 11, I provide a step or shelf 15, which in combination with the rear wall 11, forms a support for the reception of the tiles 16. These tiles are placed end to end before the player, so that the player has them all in view. The shelf 15, together with the rear wall 11, furnishes a suitable support to maintain them in their proper position and also to hold them in such a manner that they are not visible to the other players. Forwardly of the bracket 15 there is provided a trough 16 within which the counters 17, or other indicia of value, may be placed. The rear wall 11 also has a slot 18 into which a suitable card may be placed, which in the case of the game Mah jongg, is preferably labeled with the name of the person who might be in the position of the banker, and who is generally designated as the east wind. The outer edge of the rear wall 11 is preferably vertical and the end wall 14 has an extension 19 so that the tiles may be laid face down one on top of the other backwardly of the device, as shown in part by the dotted lines in Fig. 1. There are usually two rows of tiles, these tiles being the reservoir from which additional ones are presently drawn, one by one, during the progress of the game.

From what has thus been described, the nature of my invention will be readily clear and what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A unitary device of the character described comprising a rack adapted to receive tiles, in adjoining relationship, and a trough longitudinally of said rack depressed below said rack, the forward wall of said trough extending only slightly above the bottom of said rack, whereby when said device is placed in front of a player the tiles are held in position so that their faces may all be visible.

2. A unitary device of the character described comprising a rack adapted to receive tiles, in adjoining relationship, a trough longitudinally of said rack depressed below said rack, the forward wall of said trough extending only slightly above the bottom of said rack, whereby when said device is placed in front of a player the tiles are held in position so that their faces may all be visible, and a projection extending backwardly of said rack to serve in aligning tiles that may be gathered in a row backwardly of said device.

3. A unitary device of the character described comprising a rack adapted to receive tiles, in adjoining relationship, and a trough longitudinally of said rack depressed below said rack, the forward wall of said trough extending only slightly above

the bottom of said rack, whereby when said device is placed in front of a player the tiles are held in position so that their faces may all be visible, said rack having a rear wall provided with a slot adapted to receive an indication card.

4. A unitary device of the character described comprising a rack adapted to receive tiles, in adjoining relationship, a trough longitudinally of said rack depressed below said rack, the forward wall of said trough extending only slightly above the bottom of said rack, whereby when said device is placed in front of a player the tiles are held in position so that their faces may all be visible, and a projection extending backwardly of said rack at one end thereof to serve in aligning tiles that may be gathered in a row backwardly of said device, said rack having a rear wall provided with a slot adapted to receive an indication card.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name this 11th day of April A. D., 1923.

RUTH J. MAURER.